

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

THE OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The disclosure had been objected to since Figs. 7A to 7F and 15A to 15F had not been separately described. In response, the "Brief Description of the Drawings" has been changed to indicate each individual figure, as required by the Examiner. It is noted that these figures are discussed separately and in detail in the "Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments" section. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

THE OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

In response to the objection to the phrase "put against" in claim 5, the word "put" has been changed to "placed." Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

THE REJECTIONS UNDER SECTION 112

Claims 1-6 had been rejected under Section 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed, particularly as applied to the claims as presently amended.

Claim 4 had been rejected for including the terms "an extending portion" and "an inner surface of the windowpane," held to be indefinite. In response, the claims have been amended to further define the "extending portion" and to clarify the inner surface as being the inner edge surface. In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 is hereby requested.

THE INVENTION

The present embodiments are directed to an automotive windowpane support structure. As presently disclosed and claimed, a vertically extending slider is bonded to an inner surface of a windowpane with an adhesive. The slider is vertically movable within a rail member. The rail member includes two parts, an inner guide and an outer guide. The inner guide is mounted to a sash portion of a vehicle door, while the outer guide is mounted to an inside surface of a body exterior part in opposed relation to the inner guide. The adhesive is affixed so that a side portion of the slider protrudes from the windowpane. The outer guide supports the protruded side portion of the slider, and the inner guide supports the other portions of the slider so as to restrict the movement of the slider in longitudinal and transversal directions along the automobile. These limitations of the present design are clearly set forth in

the present claims. The present design is very different from the prior art relied on by the Examiner.

THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 had been rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiraishi (U.S. pat. No. 4,571,886) in view of Shimizu (U.S. Pat. No. 4,689,916). This rejection is respectfully traversed, particularly with respect to the claims as presently amended.

Shiraishi discloses a type of door glass assembly for automotive vehicles. As shown in Fig. 2 of Shiraishi and the supporting text, sliders 17 are disclosed that are bolted to the door glass 1. The sliders 17 move in the directions of opening and closing within a guide 18 that substantially surrounds the sliders 17, as is evident from Fig. 2. The Examiner lists elements disclosed in Shiraishi that are taken to read on the present claims. However, it is clear from inspection of this reference that the Shiraishi device taken as a whole discloses elements that do not correspond to the specific structures disclosed and recited at present.

For example, the Examiner makes reference to "a slider 2, 17." It would appear that the "slider 17" and "door glass piece 2" of Shiraishi are to be construed as reading onto the presently claimed slider. However, this interpretation cannot be supported from a reading of this reference. At col. 4, lines 34-36 of Shiraishi, it states: "Three sliders 17 are disposed at three positions including a top and a bottom end of a rear edge portion and a forward end portion of the door glass 1." Thus, these three sliders 17 cannot be construed as being equivalent to "a vertically

extending slider" as recited in claim 1, or a "bar member extending vertically along the inner edge surface of the windowpane" as further recited in dependent claim 2.

Further, there is nothing in the reference to indicate the relationship of this three-part slider structure and the door glass piece 2. In an alternate embodiment shown in Fig. 6 of Shiraishi, it is stated that the door glass piece 2 and the slider 17 are formed integrally. However, only a cross-sectional view of this embodiment is shown and very little disclosure is included to accompany this figure. It would only follow that the three sliders 17 are somehow formed in an unspecified manner with a door glass piece 2, which itself is not specified as being singular or plural like the sliders 17. At any rate, one must go beyond the teachings of the Shiraishi reference to arrive at a slider structure as clearly disclosed and claimed at present.

In addition to the above, the present claim 1 recites a rail member comprising an inner guide and an outer guide. The inner guide is mounted to a sash portion of a vehicle in opposed relation to a body exterior part. The outer guide is mounted to an inside surface of the body exterior part in opposed relation to the inner guide. The Examiner equates a weather strip 9 with the present body exterior part, and a seal member 16 is equated with the present outer guide. Clearly these prior art elements are non-analogous to the structures of the present invention, and therefore cannot be casually read onto the presently claimed structures.

Further, it is plain that the seal member 16 of Shiraishi is not "in opposed relation" to the guide 18 such that "at least a portion of the inner guide is disposed between the sash portion and the outer guide". Shiraishi clearly does not teach the recited relationship between the inner guide, sash portion, and the outer guide, as required by claim 1.

Further, it is evident that in Shiraishi the guide 18 encompasses the entire function of supporting the sliders 17. Shiraishi's seal member 16 does not in any way cooperate with the guide 18 to result in a "rail member" as recited in claim 1. As is clear from the present disclosure, the present invention has been contemplated as providing improved ease of assembly and maintenance as compared with prior art devices such as Shiraishi. Based upon the foregoing, it is submitted that, rather than teach the present invention, Shiraishi teaches away from the present invention.

It is also noted that the present slider, as disclosed and recited in claim 1, is bonded to the window in such a way that a side portion thereof protrudes from the windowpane. The present outer guide supports the protruded side portion of the slider, and the present inner guide supports other portions than the side portion of the slider so that the slider is restricted in movement in longitudinal and transversal directions. This very specific recitation of structure in claim 1 cannot be found within the four corners of Shiraishi. Indeed, even if the integral structure of Shiraishi's Fig. 6 embodiment could be construed as similar to the present structure, the "door glass piece 2" would still be different from the sliders 17, and so there would be no "protruded side portion" that can be discovered from the sliders 17 of Shiraishi.

The Examiner acknowledges that the Shiraishi reference is silent concerning the bonding of the slider to the windowpane using an adhesive. For this reason, the Examiner proposes to combine Shiraishi with Shimizu. While Shimizu may contain an incidental disclosure of using an adhesive, it is quite clear that the device disclosed by Shimizu is quite different from the invention as presently disclosed and claimed. Specifically, Shimizu cannot be relied upon to show a rail member comprising inner and outer guides, as recited in claim 1. Further, Shimizu cannot be

construed as disclosing a protruded side portion, configured and supported by an outer guide, as recited in claim 1. Other differences between Shimizu and the present invention are plain from inspection of this reference.

At any rate, Shimizu fails to overcome the deficiencies of the base reference. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that, even if the proposed combination of Shiraishi and Shimizu could somehow be deemed proper, it would still fail to disclose the structure recited in the present claim 1. Indeed, one could not rely on these reference to arrive at the present invention unless guided by the teachings of the present disclosure. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 6 had been rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiraishi and Shimizu, further in view of Barbero (U.S. Pat. No. 4,875,307). This rejection is also respectfully traversed, particularly as applied to the claims as amended.

Barbero is applied against claims 5 and 6 for an incidental disclosure of a support structure wherein an inner guide 6 allegedly has an integrally formed seal 7 which is put against an extending portion 5. However, it is clear that Barbero does not provide the structure missing from the base combination of Shiraishi and Shimizu, as indicated above. Therefore, even if the further proposed combination with Barbero could be deemed proper, it would still fail to satisfy the requirements of the independent claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims 2-6 are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application

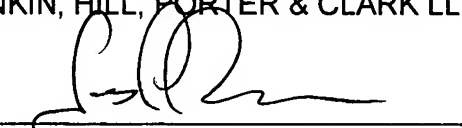
is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0160, our Order No. SHM-15395.

Respectfully submitted,

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